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The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti issued on 15 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti issued on 15 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union notes the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti and the new dates (9 April-21 May 2000) proposed by the Provisional Electoral Council.

It regrets that, 14 months after the Parliament was officially prorogued and one year after the Provisional Electoral Council was appointed, the Haitian authorities have, despite large-scale international aid, still been unable to fulfil all the conditions necessary for the holding of fair, just and transparent elections even though the people have demonstrated their keen interest and their sense of responsibility in registering in large numbers and the political parties have stated their willingness to engage in consultations.

The integrity of the electoral process requires that this final postponement be kept as short as possible and that the definitive timetable allow the Chamber of Deputies to convene on the second Monday of June 2000, in accordance with the Constitution.

Only when all the constitutional organs of the State are able to function can European aid continue to be provided in full.

The European Union remains prepared to make its contribution to the continuation of the democratic process in Haiti.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.